BOLSOVER
URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

THE ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health,

FOR THE YEAR 1895.

GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour of presenting for your consideration my Report for the year 1895.

During the year 105 deaths have been registered in the entire District, being a mortality at the rate of 28·67 per 1,000, estimated on the population at the last census (3,662), but as the actual population of the district is estimated at 5,500, this apparently very high rate is reduced to the more moderate one of 17·27 per 1,000. The following figures show at a glance the mortality at the various age periods, and the corresponding mortality for 1894, and also the birth rates for both years:—

MORTALITY.			BIRTHS.		
	1895.	1894.		1895.	1894.
Under one year	42	39	Male	126	99
One & under 5	12	11	Female	151	107
5 to 60	30	21			
Over 60.	21	15			
Totals	105	86		277	206
	17·27 per 1,000 on estimated population 5,500.	15·63 per 1,000 on estimated population 5,500		50·36 per 1,000 on estimated population 5,500.	39·27 per 1,000 on estimated population 5 500.

Thus we see that while the Mortality Rate has increased by almost two per 1,000, the Birth Rate has increased by eleven per 1,000.

I find that but for a very heavy Mortality in the months of September and October, our Death Rate would not have gone up that 2 per 1,000, but would have been at the rate of 15·96 per 1,000, or practically the same as last year.

I regret to say this extra Mortality was due principally to a bad epidemic of Summer Diarrhœa, which occurred at that time in connection with the dry and extremely hot weather which then prevailed. This epidemic was directly responsible for 13 deaths, mostly of infants under one year, and the Mortality at that age period is 151·63 per 1.000 of registered births (277). This being an improvement on last year's state, which was 180·5 per 1,000 of births (216).

We have been considering the Birth and Death Rates of the entire District. I now propose briefly to refer to the Rates in two portions of the District, the Model Village and Whaley Thorns:—

MORTALITY.				
	Model Village. Population 1250.		Whaley Thorns. Population 950.	
	1895.	1894.	1895.	1894.
Under 5 years	13	10	8	4
5 to 60	9	1	1	4
Over 60	2	1	3	0
Totals	24	12	12	8
	or 19·2 per 1000 for 1895.		or 12·64 per 1000 for 1895.	

This is not a favourable comparison for our nearer neighbours, but we must hope for better things this year as the village is now finished and in better sanitary condition.

If the Death Rate in this village is high, the Birth Rate is still higher, there having been 69 Births registered there in 1895, equal to a Birth Rate of 55·2 per 1,000 of the population, 1,250.

In the first third of this past year Influenza was very prevalent in the District, and helped to swell the Mortality Rate. I have already referred to the epidemics of Diarrhœa and Typhoid. With the exception of these complaints the District has been remarkably free from any Infectious Diseases, the Death Rate from which is ·73 per 1,000 of the population 5,500. In connection with Infectious Diseases I regret to have to state that in spite of my repeated urging the "Notification Act" is not yet in force in the District. However, I am pleased to understand that before long it is likely to be adopted, and in addition to this step I hope an arragement for a Central Isolation Hospital will soon be completed.

I also regret to have to state that the Sewage still flows down the old open ditch in its crude unpurified condition, polluting the river Doe Lea. I trust the Council will soon see their way to have an efficient Sanitary Engineer to advise them as to the best scheme to adopt for disposing of the Sewage, and have the Scheme promptly carried out.

There are some portions of the District which I hope will soon be included in the Drainage System and be connected with the main Drains. I refer to the new District out Hill Top way, and also the part known as Long Lands and the surrounding places.

My suggestions of twelve months ago, with regard to New Street, have not yet been carried out, and it still remains undrained. But on the whole we can congratulate ourselves on much good and useful work done in the District during the year 1895.

In addition to the great improvement to our Footpaths, and the Lighting of the Streets, the appearance of the place has been much improved by some fine new Buildings erected by Mr. Spooner, in the place of some wretched hovels which existed in Hockley Street, and some more are in course of erection in place of the poor structures which were condemned as unfit for human habitation.

The Privies and Ashpits in the District have been kept fairly clean, but in connection with this I would again urge the advisability of the Board having proper Scavengers employed for the removal of night soil and ashes, &c., to a suitable place, and to have this regularly and systematically carried out.

During the year I have at intervals inspected the Slaughter houses and have found them in good order, and the meat always sound and of excellent quality.

I have gone through my District and endeavoured as far as possible to see that it is kept in a sanitary condition.

In conclusion I would remark that the time is fast approaching when it will be necessary to have a proper Water Supply for this place. There is an excellent Supply flowing from the Bolsover Tunnel, which I should think could be secured, and could be easily collected and utilised by being pumped into a Reservoir on the top of the hill and so distributed over the place. I hope something will be done in this direction before the year goes by, as I am fully persuaded that by a proper supply of good Water the health of the place would be most materially benefitted.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

T. WILLOUGHBY COLE, M.B., B.Ch., &c.,

Medical Officer of Health for the Bolsover Urban District Council.

7th January, 1896.